

15 DIE, 100 HURT, IN THEATER CRASH; VIRGINIA PARALYZED BY BIG STORM

**RECORD-BREAKING
BLIZZARD SPENT,
IS INDICATION NOW**

Snow Had Reached Depth
of 18.2 Inches Last Night
at 9 o'Clock.

BEATS THAT OF 1899;
FORECAST TODAY, FAIR

Transportation Service in All
Parts of the State
Crippled.

WASHINGTON TRAINS STALLED

Richmond Is Virtually Isolated From
North Because of Stupen-
dous Snowdrifts.

After thirty-eight hours of con-
tinuous bombardment, the snowstorm
which began in Richmond at 7 o'clock
Friday morning, and which soon de-
veloped into a blizzard, apparently
had abated at 9 o'clock last night.
At that hour 18.2 inches of the fleecy
blanketed the earth. The storm was
the most severe and the fall the
greatest in this generation, even sur-
passing that of 1899.

In some places the downy sub-
stance, lifted and buffeted about by
the wind, piled in drifts of from six-
teen to thirty inches. In others, the
wind, which, at times reached a ve-
locity of twenty-five miles an hour,
swept open spaces almost bare and
deposited the accumulation of flakes
up against houses or any other object
in its path that offered resistance.
The minimum temperature yester-
day was 24; the maximum was 29.
Forecast issued yesterday by the
United States Weather Bureau does
not include snow on the weather
menu for today. To use the exact
words of the weather prognosticator,
it will be fair, preceded by snow on
the coast. For tomorrow, fair weather,
with rising temperature in the in-
terior is promised.

Begin Today to Dig Out.

Indications last night pointing to
subsidence of the snowstorm which
has held Richmond and practically
the entire State in its grasp for two
days and the better part of two
nights. Richmonders and Virginians
will this morning begin the slow and
tedious process of digging themselves
out from under the almost two feet
of snow that has fallen since the re-
cord-breaking blizzard began early
Friday morning.

With myriad flakes of the fleecy
still hurrying earthward early yester-
day evening, with but scarcely per-
ceptible abatement, indications at that
time were that the storm would be
immediate cessation of the fall, but at
9 o'clock the first rift that had been
discernible since the storm set in be-
came apparent and it looked as if the
storm had about spent itself. Snow
began to fall steadily again, however,
shortly before 11 o'clock.

Storm Generally in State.

The storm, which, since early Fri-
day morning, has held the entire
State in its grasp, has been general
over the entire Middle Atlantic sec-
tion. According to the Weather Bu-
reau, it had its origin off the East
coast of Florida Thursday night. The
velocity of the storm of wind and
snow, which was centered yesterday
off the North Carolina coast, gradu-
ally lost its force as it traveled
North.

In its wake, it left Richmond and
practically the entire State storm-
battered. Norfolk, too, was hard hit.
A fifty-six-mile-an-hour gale inun-
dated a part of the business section
and shipping was crippled.

Washington Almost Cut Off.

Reports of the Weather Bureau
showed the fall of snow to have been
heaviest in parts of North Carolina,
Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and
the District of Columbia. Washing-
ton was virtually isolated yesterday,
as far as rail communication is con-
cerned. The snowstorm, which hit
Richmond Friday morning, reached
Washington about 5 o'clock the same
morning, and citizens of the nation's
capital awoke yesterday morning to
face conditions similar to those ex-
perienced in Richmond twenty-four
hours before.

Street car and automobile trans-
portation was virtually paralyzed in
Richmond yesterday, and thousands
of workers were unable to get to
work. Those who had been wont to
depend upon one or the other, where-
by to reach their places of business,
were forced to trudge, in some in-
stances, several miles to reach of-
fice or mart.

The few trolleys and automobiles
that braved the elements soon came
to grief, and stalled street and mo-
tor cars were familiar sights all
over the city. Tractors were em-
ployed on Broad Street to make a
path for vehicular traffic.

With nearly a foot and half of
snow on the ground and, in some
places where it had drifted, nearly
(Continued on Page 5, Col. 1.)

HOW RICHMOND LOOKED IN BIGGEST SNOW OF GENERATION



V. R. & P. REJECTS CARMEN'S PROFFER

Wheelwright Will Ignore Com-
promise Proposition Made
by J. H. Gardner.

POSITION IS UNALTERED

Traction Head Holds Strikers
No Longer Are in Employ
of Company.

Thomas S. Wheelwright, president
of the Virginia Railway and Power
Company, declared yesterday that he
would ignore the compromise propo-
sition made to him by J. H. Gardner,
representing the striking street car
men.

"Our position is unaltered," Mr.
Wheelwright said. "We took the
position long ago that the men who
left our employ have severed their
connection with the company and we
will have no further dealings with
them."

Substance of Proposals.
The striking street car men's
proposal to the company, as sub-
mitted through Mr. Gardner, was
that they be reinstated at a wage
scale ranging from 37 to 43 cents an
hour; that there be no discrimina-
tion against the men for their part
in the strike, and that a conference
be held later, at which would be de-
termined a method of permanent set-
tlement.

Both street car and jitney trans-
portation virtually were at a stand-
still in Richmond yesterday. What
cars the company attempted to run
came to grief in snow drifts and the
few jitneys to be seen on the streets
experienced extreme difficulty in
negotiating the snow-caked and slip-
pery thoroughfares.

President Wheelwright declared
yesterday that "we are handling the
traffic situation as well as can be
expected under weather conditions."

To Put on More Jitneys.
Union officials declared that the
striking street car men were not
equipped to operate jitneys under
such weather conditions as obtained
yesterday. As the morning pro-
gressed, union heads said more jit-
neys were put into service.

William H. Adams, president of
the Board of Aldermen, said yester-
day that he would call a meeting of
the Board within the next three or
four days to take action on the re-
commendation of the Council Com-
mittee on Streets that the 6-cent
(Continued on Page 7, Col. 2.)

OPPOSE U. S. SALE OF HOBOKEN RAILROAD

[By Associated Press.]
NEW YORK, Jan. 28.—Sale by the
government of the Hoboken Shore
Railway, a one-mile transfer line
acquired by the War Department in
1917, was opposed today at a hearing
before members of the United States
Shipping Board by representatives of
the city of Hoboken, the local Cham-
ber of Commerce, and the port au-
thority of New York.

The commissioners reserved de-
cision pending announcement of New
York and New Jersey port develop-
ment plans.

Destroy 12,000 Gallons of Liquor.
UNION HILL, N. J., Jan. 28.—Spec-
tators came from miles around to-
day to watch United States marshals
pour 12,000 gallons of whiskey and
seven barrels of wine into the gutters
here. The liquor had been seized
at various times during the past
year at Union Hill City, Hoboken
and Union Hill.



Upper left—West side of State Library Building, looking from north.
Upper right—East side of Capitol Building, showing steps leading up from Library Building.
Lower left—Pedestrians, facing blizzard, walking east on Broad Street.
Lower right—Snow plow being pushed by tractor on Broad Street, between Eighth and Ninth.

56-MILE GALE LASHES VIRGINIA COAST CITIES

Seven Ships Reported in Dis-
tress—Barges Are Adrift
at Sea.

[By Associated Press.]
NORFOLK, A. Jan. 28.—Heavy seas,
whipped by a gale of high velocity,
accompanied by snow, jeopardized
shipping all along the Virginia and
North Carolina coast throughout to-
day, and tonight the storm continued
unabated. Prospects were, Weather
Bureau reported, that it would con-
tinue through tomorrow.

Cape Henry Weather Bureau re-
corded the wind velocity there at
fifty-four miles an hour. Only a few
ships ventured out from this port.

Reports of distress of varying de-
grees came from all directions by
wireless, though no vessel was re-
ported in a precarious position.

Two barges with eight men aboard,
bound from New York to Norfolk,
broke adrift from the tug Peerless
north of Cape Charles. The tug re-
ported by wireless that it was run-
ning before the sea and could not
stop to search for its tow. The tug
in distress were the W. R. McDonald
and the Catonsville. Late tonight no
report had been received of the
Catonsville, but this afternoon the
steamer Munabro reported that it was
standing by the W. R. McDonald five
miles southeast of Cape Charles.

Although both barges were within
forty miles of Hampton Roads, no as-
sistance could be sent out tonight.
Tug owners being unwilling to risk
their craft in the rough seas.

Seven vessels in all were reported
in distress. Among them were the
two barges, the W. R. McDonald and
the Catonsville, the schooner Blanche
C. Pendleton, the naval fuel ship
Arethusa, which has been battering
the storm for three days off Cape
Fear; the tanker Robert E. Hopkins;
the Ambrose Five, a gasoline launch,
and the coast guard cutter Manning.

No word has been received tonight
of the fate of the Blanche C. Pen-
dleton and the cutter Manning, which
were forced to abandon yesterday when a
tow line parted. The Pendleton was
helpless at the time. Because of the
storm, the cutter was unable to get
another line aboard. The Manning
reported this afternoon that it was
passing through the heart of a hur-
ricane and was running short of fuel.
Heavy seas had carried away
two of its life boats, the cutter re-
ported.

In the vicinity of Cape Fear, the
wind subsided enough for the coast
guard cutter, Seminole, to get a
huller aboard the naval fuel ship
Arethusa. The Yamacraw has joined
the Seminole, and together they are
towing the Arethusa toward Ham-
pton Roads at about four knots an
hour.

No trace of the gasoline launch,
Ambrose Five, has been reported.
The owner, Parker H. Kemble, his
wife and son are aboard. The ves-
sel was bound from Beaufort, N. C.,
to Charleston.
The tanker Robert E. Hopkins,
which went ashore on Wicomico
Shoals Thursday, but succeeded in

Blizzard Increases Fire Hazard, Warns Myers

Emphasizing the danger threat-
ening Richmond in the event of
a serious fire, and realizing that
effectiveness of the city's fire-
fighting apparatus is reduced by
snowdrifts, Colonel William M.
Myers, Director of Public Safety,
yesterday appealed to the public
to use every precaution in guard-
ing against the hazard.

With virtually all fire hydrants
covered in snow and many thor-
oughfares adjacent to buildings
considered the city's greatest fire
hazards are asked to be extremely
cautious of their fires and to re-
move any material that consti-
tutes a risk to their property or
adds to the danger of flames.

The only alarm of fire recorded
yesterday came from 115 Chase
Street. The flames were extin-
guished before gaining headway.
The damage was superficial. Of
two steamers that responded to
the alarm, but one reached the
scene.

working free, miraculously escap-
ing being pounded to pieces, reported to-
night that it was making for Ham-
pton Roads under its own steam.

Thirty Inches Blanket State.

NEW CANTON, VA., Jan. 28.—
Snow today covers Central Virginia
to a uniform depth of thirty inches.
It is still snowing at the rate of one-
inch or more an hour, with no
promise of cessation.

Business has stopped. No horse-
nor automobiles can travel the roads,
which are blocked with snow drifts
in places from six to eight feet
deep. Rural carriers are unable to
make their routes. Many farmers
and householders cannot reach their
barns to feed and water their stock.
It is the worst snowstorm ever re-
corded in the history of this portion
of Virginia.

New Record at Lynchburg.

LYNCHBURG, VA., Jan. 28.—The
thirty-two-hour snowstorm ended
here about 9 o'clock this morning,
leaving a blanket fixing the total fall
at 29.2 inches, a new record. The
previous deepest snow was 12.5
inches, February, 1894. The City
Manager today issued an appeal for
2,000 men and all available trucks
for removal of snow from the streets
tonight and Sunday. The haste is
because of fear of danger in case of
rain falling on top of the snow. There
have been no accidents reported as
a result of the storm. Street car ser-
vice was normal today, but no trains
reached here this afternoon on the
Southern road from Washington.

Three Warehouse Roofs Cave In.
DANVILLE, VA., Jan. 28.—Three
warehouse roofs, and that of a
motor company, caved in here
today—as a result of the heavy snow.
All warehouses have been ordered
closed. The snow began to fall
Thursday night and has fallen with-
out interruption since then. No
street cars are running and many au-
tomobiles have been abandoned in
the streets of the business section.

BLIZZARD BLOCKS INAUGURAL PLANS

May Abandon Outdoor Part
of Trinkle Installation
Ceremony.

AWAIT STORM REPORT

General Assembly Marks
Time Until New Govern-
nor Is Inducted.

Inauguration of E. Lee Trinkle, of
Wytheville, as fifty-fourth Governor
of the Commonwealth of Virginia,
on Wednesday, will be the over-
shadowing feature of the coming week
in the General Assembly. Decision
on whether to abandon the outdoor
plans for the inaugural ceremony
will be made tomorrow after weather
reports from Washington are con-
sidered in connection with the bliz-
zard now sweeping this section.

A spectacular military parade had
been planned as one of the features
of the induction of Governor-Elect
Trinkle and Junius E. West, of Sur-
folk, as Lieutenant Governor. If
weather conditions continue bad, it is
expected that military participation
trucks will be abandoned, save, possibly, the
firing of the Governor's salute of
seventeen guns by the Richmond
Howitzers, Battery A., One Hundred
and Eleventh Field Artillery.

May Transfer Ceremonies.
Should the blizzard continue, cere-
monies scheduled for the South Por-
tico of the Capitol will be trans-
ferred to the hall of the House of
Delegates, which means that only a
limited number will be enabled to
witness the scene.

All plans are being held up tem-
porarily. It is scheduled for the to-
morrow (Continued on Page 14, Col. 2.)

BALTIMORIAN KILLED BY HIS OWN SON

Charles Koehler Loses Life, Young
Man Confessing to Fratricidal
Crime.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 28.—Charles
Koehler, prominent sporting man,
and owner of one of the largest au-
tomobile garages in the city, who was
shot and killed early this morning
by his son, Charles Koehler, Jr., 29
years old, met death while investi-
gating after a pistol shot which he
thought might have been fired by
his son with suicidal intent.

This was the information obtained
by State policemen, who arrested
young Koehler a short while after
the tragedy, from Mrs. Koehler and
Ellis Cohen, an employee, at the
garage.

BRITISH MARINES HELD IN READINESS

Will Prevent Invasion of Hankow,
China, by General Wu Pei Fu's
Forces.

[By Associated Press.]
PEKING, Jan. 28.—British marines
are being held in readiness to land
at Hankow to protect the salt admin-
istration office against seizure by the
forces of General Wu Pei Fu, who
are said to be under orders to occupy
it.

Hankow is a treaty port in the pro-
vince of Hu Pei. General Wu is in-
specter-general of that province, and
was reported in a Peking dispatch
on January 22 to have seized salt
revenues there.

ROOF COLLAPSES IN WASHINGTON; TRAPS HUNDREDS

Steel Structure Falls Under Weight of Snow,
Burying Movie Crowd in New Knicker-
bocker Picture House in Fashion-
able District of Capital.

FIVE ALARMS CALL POLICE RESERVES
AND CITY FIREMEN TO AID IN RESCUE

Private and Public Ambulances Rush Injured
to Hospitals and Homes—W. S. Scofield, of Dan-
ville, Among Those Killed
in Mishap.

[By Associated Press.]
WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—Fifteen persons at least are believed to have
been killed and scores injured tonight in the collapse under the weight of
two feet of snow, of the roof of the Knickerbocker Theater, a motion-picture
house, located in the heart of Washington's fashionable northwest section.
Two hours and a half after the crash, which occurred about 9 o'clock,
definite information as to the number of dead and injured was wholly lack-
ing, as well as estimates of the number of persons in the theater at the
time. These estimates ranged from 150 to 500, although the theater, one of
the finest motion-picture houses in the city, had accommodation for more
than 2,000 spectators.

ITALIAN SECRETARY IS INJURED.
Signor Andrea Gelsner Colonna di Vegliano, secretary of the Italian
embassy, according to the police, was removed from the Knickerbocker
Theater after the accident with both legs broken and internal injuries.
The fire department was called by five alarms and police reserves were
rushed to the scene, the rescuers immediately beginning the work of hack-
ing at the wreckage, to liberate the imprisoned.
The "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford" was being shown, and the second
show of the evening had just begun, when the roof crashed.

No warning was given as the walls crashed, the roof breaking in on
the heads of the audience with a noise like thunder and crashing seats and
occupants as it fell. It was more than an hour before the rescuers, using
gas torches to cut through the accumulated mass of steel and concrete,
reached the section where it was believed most of the dead and injured were.
Representative Smithwick, of Florida, was among those injured in the
theater accident.

Among the injured at the Knickerbocker Theater accident tonight, ac-
cording to reports to the police and hospitals, were: Mrs. R. J. Brown, Wal-
ter Urd Say, M. E. Castney, "Doc" Broussard, of North Adams, Mass., a stu-
dent at Georgetown University, fractured back; Mrs. Henry S. Powell, Henry
T. Lacey, fractured ribs; J. L. Durland, cuts and bruises; Mrs. J. L. Durland,
cuts and bruises; Noble Tommaso Assereto, third secretary of the Italian em-
bassy, fractured ribs; John Rembo, injuries serious; Mrs. R. J. Bowen, leg broken; Marie
Rhea, John Klehmer, Belk Rembo, Hugh Nesbit, son of the Washington corre-
spondent of the Kansas City Star; S. W. Richmond, Robert Williams,
Alphonso Vantouque, musician.

Mertie, arm crushed off at
shoulder; G. Caplan, M. Gold, Hugh
Glenn, Edward A. Williams, mus-
cian, broken leg; William Mattello,
musician, arm amputated; Mr. and
Mrs. Jonas Michaleas, Woodley
Apartment; Dr. Charles Lee Hall, frac-
tured arm, and his wife, dislocated
shoulder, fractured arm and cuts;
Mrs. Margaret Cole, Florence Long,
Mrs. Gertrude Taylor, James A. Cur-
tain, of Florence, Miss Helen
Hopkins, S. M. Lee, Albert R. Ryan,
fractured skull; Miss MacLean White,
broken leg; J. B. G. Curtis, Dr. and
Mrs. Hall, slightly injured; Etha
Underwood, slightly injured; Mrs.
Mattie Schwab, slightly injured;
Mrs. Mary Chalmers, slightly injured;
Clarence Newkirk, slightly injured;
Mrs. Bernard Bresslau, both shoul-
ders broken.

Mrs. Juliette Webb, slightly in-
jured; Representative Smithwick, of
Florida; Lewis W. Strayer, removed
unconscious, and daughter, Martha,
who suffered fractured collar, Mrs.
Mrs. Douglas Hillier, slightly in-
jured; Miss Elizabeth Jeffries, internal
injuries.

At midnight the following list of
dead was ascertained: Mrs. B. Cor-
well; Miss Costley; William Tracy,
a member of the orchestra, and F. H.
Earnest. Two dead were unident-
ified, one carrying an envelope with
a Warman Park Hotel return ad-
dress directed to W. P. Stray, of
Manassas, N. H. Douglas Hillier;
Mrs. Marie Russell; W. S. Scofield,
of Danville, Va., and G. S. Freeman,
musician.

British Embassy Makes Check.
Attaches of the British embassy
reported at midnight that a check
had been made of the staff of that
embassy and none found to have been
in attendance at the theater. Belief
was expressed in some quarters that
the final list of injured and possi-
bly that of the dead would con-
tain names of well-known persons
inasmuch as the theater was situated
in a section of the city in which
many government officials live.

The management of the theater,
which was owned and operated by
the Harry M. Crandall Company,
owner of a number of theaters in
the city, declared that the building
only recently had been inspected and
approved and that the collapse of
the roof only could have been caused
by the tremendous weight imposed
by the heaviest snowfall that has
visited Washington since 1920.

The roof fell with such force as to
drive three concrete pillars through
the orchestra floor. Up near the
stage, however, the force was arrest-
ed, so that the platform, successively
acted as a buffer. For this reason, it
was believed that the platform would
be saved.

Citrus Crop Hit by Frost.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—The dam-
age to the orange crop by the recent
cold wave in California will amount
to 20 to 50 per cent, depending on
locality, and to the lemon crop about
35 per cent, the Department of Com-
merce said in a statement today
based on reports from its agents in
the State.

Mexican Paper Upholds War Scare.
[By Associated Press.]
MEXICO CITY, Jan. 28.—We are
at war with Guatemala, and don't
know it." This is the caption which
El Universal places above dispatches
from the United States, which have
been denied in official quarters here
that Mexico and Guatemala are at
war. The other newspapers merely
print the dispatches without com-
ment.

(Continued on Page 5, Col. 3.)